

President Bush. Igor. In *Ingles?* [Laughter]

Foreign Minister Ivanov. Thank you for receiving us, first thing.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Foreign Minister Ivanov. The second thing, before we had a lot of interest, good documents, but we couldn't implement. Now we have good document, and the most important thing is to implement. This is our main objective now. Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Very good.

Sandra [Sandra Sobieraj, Associated Press], quick question.

Iraq

Q. Mr. President, your administration concluded yesterday that Saddam Hussein pretty much blew his last chance to come clean on his weapons of mass destruction. Are we now on a path to war?

President Bush. One thing is for certain. We will fulfill the terms and conditions of 1441.

The world spoke clearly that we expect Mr. Saddam Hussein to disarm. Yesterday's document was not encouraging. We expected him to show that he would disarm. And as the Secretary of State said, it's—it's a long way from there. And we're serious about keeping the peace. We're serious about working with our friends in the United Nations so that this body, ably led by Kofi Annan, has got relevance as we go into the 21st century. And yesterday was a disappointing day for those who have longed for peace.

Listen, I want to thank you all for coming.

Q. Trent Lott question?

President Bush. I would have, but we ran out of time. [Laughter] We ran out of time. They eat up your time. We had only so much time available. They ate up your time. I'm sorry. [Laughter]

Q. You can drop by later.

President Bush. We could do that; you're right. But we're due at Christmas parties.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:31 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Participating in the meeting were Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations, Minister for Foreign Affairs Per Stig Moller of Denmark, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Sergeyevich Ivanov of Russia.

In his remarks, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Statement on Senator Trent Lott's Decision Not To Seek the Senate Majority Leader's Position

December 20, 2002

I respect the very difficult decision Trent made on behalf of the American people. As Majority and Minority Leader of the Senate, Trent Lott improved education for the American people; he led the way in securing tax relief; he strengthened our national security; and he stood for a bold and effective foreign policy. Trent is a valued friend, and a man I respect. I am pleased he will continue to serve our Nation in the Senate, and I look forward to working with him on our agenda to make America safer, stronger, and better.

Message on the Observance of Christmas 2002

December 20, 2002

I send greetings to those celebrating Christmas.

During Christmas, we gather with family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As God's only Son, Jesus came to Earth and gave His life so that we may live. His actions and His words remind us that service to others is central to our lives and that sacrifice and unconditional love must guide us and inspire us to lead lives of compassion, mercy, and justice.

The true spirit of Christmas reflects a dedication to helping those in need, to giving hope to those in despair, and to spreading peace and understanding throughout the Earth. As we share love and enjoy the traditions of this holiday, we are also grateful for the men and women of our Armed Forces who are working to defend freedom, secure our homeland, and advance peace and safety around the world.

This Christmas, may we give thanks for the blessings God has granted to our Nation and

in each of our lives. May the joy of the holidays renew our commitment to working together for a future of peace, opportunity, and hope.

Laura joins me in wishing you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this message.

Message on the Observance of Kwanzaa

December 20, 2002

I send greetings to those celebrating Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa celebrates the traditional African values of unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. From December 26th to January 1st, people of African descent gather to renew their commitment to these seven principles, known as *Nguzo Saba*, and give thanks for the blessings of family, community, and culture. Kwanzaa is also a time for Africans and African-Americans to honor their common heritage by participating in events based on early harvest gatherings called *matunda ya kwanza*, or first fruits.

As individuals and families join together during Kwanzaa, their joy enriches communities in the United States and across the globe. By uniting people of diverse backgrounds and beliefs, this holiday promotes mutual understanding and respect. These universal principles inspire us as we work together for a future of freedom, hope, and opportunity for all.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a memorable Kwanzaa, and for peace, happiness, and success in the coming year.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 14

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had intelligence briefings.

December 15

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. In the evening, at the National Building Museum, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in the taping of the annual "Christmas in Washington" concert for television broadcast on TNT at 8 p.m.

December 16

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei.

In the afternoon, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, the President made remarks to Cabinet and sub-Cabinet officials to thank them for their service.

During the day, the President met with House leaders to discuss proposed legislation concerning prescription drugs for seniors.

December 17

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He then met with Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert to discuss the legislative agenda for the upcoming session of Congress. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with President Vladimir Voronin of Moldova.

December 18

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson and Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Mark B. McClellan to discuss FDA